

REMARKS

In the present application a Final Office Action issued on February, 26, 2004. In response to the Final Office Action, an amendment was submitted April 13, 2004. An Advisory Action issued on April 30, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination has been submitted.

In the February 26th Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szczutkowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,817,146) in view of Cookson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,454). It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Szczutkowski and Cookson, does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the present claims.

For example as best understood, neither Szczutkowski nor Cookson teach or suggest “a transmission circuit **for adding enciphering information representative of the cipher mode to the data enciphered** in the cipher processing circuit.”

Further, neither Szczutkowski nor Cookson teach or suggest a transmission circuit “for **determining whether the cipher mode and the enciphering information correspond**, and when the cipher mode and enciphering information are determined not to correspond **transmitting the data enciphered by a different cipher mode** to the serial interface bus as packet data in another cycle.”

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the applied combination of references.

For at least some of the reasons described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3, 5, 6 and 8 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Szczutkowski and Cookson.

Claims 2, 4 and 7 depend from one of claims 1, 3, and 6, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Szczutkowski and Cookson for at least the reasons previously described.

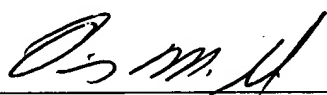
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the cited prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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